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# Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation Policy Plan 2023-2025

This policy plan for 2023-2025 of the Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation provides an overview of its ambitions and the activities it is planning to achieve them. It is our mission to protect the forest, promote biodiversity and champion sustainable agroforestry practices in the boundary zone of Kibale National Park in Uganda.

## Table of contents

### Introduction

This policy paper for 2023-2025 the Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation provides an overview of its ambitions and the activities it is planning to achieve them. It is our mission to protect the forest, promote biodiversity and champion sustainable agroforestry practices in the boundary zone of Kibale National Park in Uganda.

The Dutch foundation has been founded to support its counterpart in Uganda primarily in fundraising and forging partnerships to finance and implement the activities on the ground. The board members also serve as a sounding board for the Chris Roberts Foundation in Uganda (CRFF) which is responsible for the overall strategy and execution on the ground.

### History

The Chris Roberts Forest Foundation (CRFF) was founded in 2022 in Uganda in loving memory of Chris Roberts. He was one of the creators of Turaco Treetops, a lodge located at one of the last patches of tropical rainforest outside Kibale National Park in Uganda, home to more than 1,500 chimpanzees.

Chris built the lodge in 2018 and had an immense and infectious passion for the wonders of nature and wildlife. From the start the owners of Turaco Treetops have made it a point to prevent further deforestation and protect the habitat of unique species of flora and fauna.

Chris spent his life's work creating places such as Turaco Treetops, where people could connect with the wild and explore the curiosities of creatures large and small. In his spirit, the foundation chases the dream to preserve and grow the forest, in close collaboration with surrounding communities, visitors, friends and partners of the foundation.

In 2023, the Dutch co-owners of Turaco Treetops and XSM Capital, one of CRFF's donors, also founded the Stichting Chris Roberts Foundation in the Netherlands to support CRFF's mission by focusing on fundraising and forging partnerships to implement the activities on the ground.

### Our mission and ambition

The mission of the [Chris Roberts Forest Foundation](#) is to protect the forest, promote biodiversity and champion regenerative agroforestry practices near Kibale National Park in Uganda, one of the few remaining expanses to contain both lowland and montane forests in eastern Africa and an important habitat of chimpanzees. We aim to contribute to improved livelihoods as well as nature conservation.

By 2030 we want to see farmers surrounding the entire Kibale Forest practicing regenerative agroforestry and we're striving to convert around 500 acres of the Kibale National Park's boundary zone into sustainable forested land. Our of our activities in the next two years to map the boundary zone around the park.

### Kibale Forest

Kibale National Park is a conservation area in Western Uganda just outside of Fort Portal. The park protects contains a diverse array of landscapes ranging from lush tropical forest on the Fort Portal plateau to woodland and savanna on the rift valley floor. Kibale is 766 square kilometres in size and one of the last remaining expanses to contain both lowland and montane forests. The Park is part of a

continuous conservation belt with Queen Elizabeth National Park, forming a 180 km long wildlife corridor.

Kibale is home to over 350 tropical tree species, 120 species of mammals including forest elephants, 370 species of birds, and several species of reptiles, beetles, and butterflies. But what makes Kibale iconic, is its primate population. There are thirteen different species, including the endangered red colobus monkey and a 1,500 strong chimpanzee population. Kibale is known to be as one of the best places in the world to visit chimpanzees in the wild.

Thanks to its thriving primate population, Kibale is a global destination for ecotourism; a host to world-class primate and conservation research; and since 1994, a pioneer for tropical forest restoration in the region.

#### *Encroachment of the Kibale National Park buffer zone*

The 100m boundary zone next to Kibale National Park is often not respected. Large parts of the zone are severely affected by illegal logging and agricultural activities that require frequent burning of trees.

#### Our objectives

Our key objectives are:

- 1) Protecting the buffer zone of Kibale National Park and improve its biodiversity
- 2) Restoring deforested and degraded forest areas in the buffer zone and beyond
- 3) Improving smallholder farmers' incomes through agroforestry with – ideally - native species
- 4) Engaging communities and visitors in forest conservation and restoration
- 5) Promotion of ecotourism
- 6) Mobilizing money and support to help finance and run CRFF's activities in Uganda

#### 1. Strategy

As a non-for-profit organization we strive to create as much progress towards our goals with the resources that we have available and intend to raise. This means that:

- 1) We have determined clear priorities, objectives, activities, responsibilities and milestones that can be monitored by the board
- 2) In making decision we always carefully weigh what are our priorities and what is the effectiveness of planned activities
- 3) In organizing our foundation, we ensure that our capacity is in proportion to our resources
- 4) We keep a sharp eye on costs
- 5) We seek partnerships to strengthen our capacities and to avoid reinventing the wheel

## 1.1 Our approach on the ground in Uganda

In line with our objectives, CRFF's work on the ground focuses on 4 core activities:

### 1) **Protecting the park boundary zone**

The foundation works with farming communities and local authorities to develop sustainable ways in which flora and fauna can flourish and the people can benefit, whilst understanding that this area is protected by law. The foundation land serves as a pilot for best practices to scale around a larger area of park boundary.

### 2) **Strengthening the forest**

The foundation supports natural regeneration and plants indigenous species in severely degraded zones. To fast-track this process, Turaco Treetops has already established a small nursery with trees that are growing in Kibale NP. In time, seedlings can also be handed out to nearby farmers. The aim: transforming the current patched landscape into inter-linked, rich, forest areas.

### 3) **Practicing regenerative agroforestry**

The foundation partners with communities to develop, test and promote agroforestry practices that allow for coexistence of indigenous trees alongside species with more commercial value. The foundation premises function as a demonstration site where farmers - eventually from the whole Kibale area – can see how commercial crops like coffee and macadamia generate income, while being less susceptible to forest animals. By combining food and commercial crops with a forest system, soil quality, biodiversity and carbon storage are also supported. In this way, the agroforestry zone inspires farmers to turn their monocrop field into forest farmland.

Our top priority for our agroforestry system is to rebuild healthy soils; rich in organic matter, soil moisture and teeming with soil microbes. Because soil is the very foundation of everything we care about.

### 4) **Engaging communities and visitors**

To ensure that the value of conservation and biodiversity is more widely embraced, the Chris Roberts Forest Foundation will document and share its lessons and best practices in collaboration with neighbouring communities and (inter)national visitors. Outreach activities, nature walks, experiences on the foundation premises, and a nature and activity centre will contribute to realizing this.

## Development phase and demo site – 2021 to 2026

The Chris Roberts Forest Foundation has developed a demo site, that forms the basis for our activities and regenerative agroforestry model. The demo farm will serve as a launchpad for scaling regenerative agroforestry in the communities surrounding Kibale Forest.

Figure 1 below shows the activities of the development phase which runs up to year 5 in 2026.

**Figure 1: Development Phase**



The demo site is located around the lodge Turaco Treetops. Development of the site kicked off in 2022 with the long term lease of a first section of 25 acres. In 2023 another 15 acres are added to the demo site, resulting in a total plot of 40 acres.

The ambition for 2024 is to grow the demo site further to a 50-acre plot divided into three sections:

- 1) Forest protection (8 acres) – land dedicated to forest protection and natural regeneration
- 2) Forest restoration (22 acres) – land dedicated to forest restoration
- 3) Agroforestry (20 acres) – land dedicated to agroforestry production

Restoring the ecosystem is central theme to our regenerative agroforestry model, The agroforestry section is designed to mimic a natural forest environment and modelled according to the ideals of agroecology and ecological restoration to form one extensive forest environment. It mixes native tree species and shrubs. Allowing for natural regeneration of old stumps and wild saplings from seed rain takes priority, even if it means doing with fewer commercial trees. The main agroforestry plot hosts a pilot mix of coffee, macadamia, and forest trees in a randomized fashion: 20% coffee, 40% macadamia, 30% forest trees, 10% shrubs and other forest floor products.

## 1.2 Our partners

The foundation realizes its mission in partnership with surrounding farmer communities, visitors of Kibale Forest, local authorities, (agro)forestry businesses and other conservation and community development organizations. Current partners include [DEG Invest](#), [Wagagai](#), [XSML Capital](#), [Kyaninga Forest Foundation](#), [In the Shadow of Chimpanzees](#), [EyeOpenerWorks](#) and [Nyanza Ecological](#).

We are continuously exploring new partnerships to further our work.

### 1.3 Our results until mid-2023

By the end of 2023, with the support of DEG Invest, Wagagai, Kyaninga Forest Foundation, EyeOpenerWorks, XSMC Capital and Nyanza Ecological, CRFF will have achieved the following milestone results:

- 1) 40-acre demo site established
  - a. 8 acres forest protection
  - b. 17 acres forest restoration
  - c. 15 acres agroforestry
- 2) Development of a replicable agroforestry model
- 3) Mapping of potential nearby farmers and landowners for scale up
- 4) Construction of a CRFF coordination centre and viewing decks
- 5) Establishment of a 3km year-round accessible nature walk in the boundary zone of Kibale Forest including 400 meters of boardwalk

### 1.4 Planned activities mid 2023-2025

In the next few years, building on the results established on and around the CRFF demo-site, we want to focus on enlarging the impact of our work in the area around Kibale Forest. Two strategic activities will be at the core of this ambition:

- **Expanding the demo-site**

To expand the demo-site to the desired size of 50 acres in total, CRFF intends to purchase an additional 10 acre of agricultural land that strategically connects to the current 40-acre plot. With this expansion the demo-site will have reached a size that will comfortably be able to host the three zones as described above.

- **Scaling agroforestry model**

By 2030, CRFF wants to see farmers surrounding the whole of Kibale Forest practicing agroforestry. This will improve their livelihoods and enhance the natural boundary zone between the forest and surrounding communities.

Ten families owning larger plots of land neighbouring Kibale Forest (approximately 200 acres in total) have already expressed interest in being involved in further scaling the agroforestry model piloted at the demo plot. CRFF will support them with seedlings and training in good agronomic practices to ensure a successful start of the model in 2024 and 2025. In the process we expect to plant at least 300,000 trees.

- **Educational outreach**

By 2030, CRFF wants to see young people living around Kibale Forest championing forest protection and conservation. To achieve this at scale we aim to start working with primary schools and youth organisations, such as Village Bird Clubs, in the vicinity of the national park.

In 2024 and 2025 at least 3,000 children and young people will be engaged in activities that promote values and practices related to conservation and the preservation of biodiversity.

### 1.5 Required budget for planned activities in Uganda mid 2023-2025

To achieve our set objectives by 2025, CRFF Uganda has forecast a required budget of approximately €70,000 per year in 2024 and 2025.

- An estimated €15,000 will be required annually to purchase the additional 10 hectares in 2024-2025 (total costs are an estimated €30,000)

- An estimated €50,000 will be required annually to support the scaling of the agroforestry model in the boundary zone.
- An estimated €20,000 will be dedicated annually to educational activities.

**Table 1: Annual budget activities in Uganda 2023-2025**

Activity	Costs (in euro)
<b>Scaling of agroforestry model</b>	
Land purchase	15,000
Nursery and seedlings	12,000
Staff	10,000
Training costs	8,000
Logistics	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Educational outreach</b>	
Staff	8,000
Meeting & Events	5,000
Material	4,000
Logistics	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total annual budget</b>	<b>70,000</b>

Out of this annual budget of €70,000, each year €10,000 will be covered by a donation of Turaco Treetops lodge. Next to this, CRFF Uganda aims to raise an additional €10,000 to €20,000 annually for its activities. CRFF NL aims to raise the additional €40,000 to €50,000 through a variety of fundraising activities.

## 2. Activities in the Netherlands

The foundation of the Dutch counterpart of CRFF was initiated to support the work in Uganda to facilitate and strengthen the fundraising and mobilization of other support. The focus of our work in the Netherlands in our first year (March 2023-March 2024) is to lay the foundation for a solid fundraising strategy:

- 1) Develop an attractive website with donation button
- 2) Apply for the ANBI status

- 3) Develop fundraising and partnership strategy and propositions, including donor and partnership mapping
- 4) Initiate first contacts with potential donors
- 5) Support CRFF in Uganda in their communications strategy
- 6) Set up financial administration

In the following years, we will focus on executing our fundraising strategy.

### 3. Finances

#### 3.1 Budget mid 2023-2025

<b>Meerjarenbegroting CRFF NL</b>			
<i>alle bedragen in EUR</i>			
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Baten</b>			
Donaties particulieren	5,000	10,000	10,000
Donaties bedrijven	10,000	20,000	30,000
Institutionele fondsen/projecten		20,000	30,000
Verkoop artikelen			
Acties van derden			
Overige baten			
<b>Totale baten</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>Lasten</b>			
Personeelslasten	0	2,000	3,000
Doelstellingen / CRFF UG	12,000	42,000	60,000
Kantoorkosten	0	500	500
Kosten voor Goodies	0	500	500
Communicatie en reiskosten	500	1,500	2,000
Overige kosten	500	1,000	1,000
<b>Totale lasten</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>47,500</b>	<b>67,000</b>
<b>Resultaat</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>



### 3.2 Fundraising

To realise its objectives the Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation raises funds – gifts and/or grants in cash or in kind from private individuals, companies, foundations, and other types of organisations.

### 3.1 Financial management

Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation strives to keep overhead costs as low as possible, below 10% of its balance sheet, to ensure almost all of its proceeds will be for the benefit of the work in Uganda. We will report every year on the percentage of overhead.

## 4 Organisation

The Board of Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation is responsible for the running of the foundation. The 3-person Board determines the multi-year strategy, decides on the donations made to the Chris Roberts Foundation in Uganda and monitors how the work on the ground in Uganda is progressing. The Board supports the Ugandan foundation and the local team in determining and executing the strategy and work on the ground.

The Board will publish an annual report every year, including a financial report, and when needed, update its policy plan. Both documents are published on the website.

The Stichting's contact details are:

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Bank account: NL21 BUNQ 2089290544

KvK number: 89638905

RSIN: 865050326

### 4.1 Board of the Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation

The three-person board has been appointed for an indefinite period of time. The board can be expanded up to a maximum of 5 people. Only the Board can appoint new Board members. Board members do not receive a remuneration for their activities. For further information on the Board of Stichting Chris Roberts Forest Foundation, we refer to the articles of association on our website.

Board

[Vincent van 't Hof – Chair](#)

[Wim Kok – Treasury](#)

[Maaïke Veen – Secretary](#)

Each board member has work experience on the ground in Uganda and brings relevant expertise to the table: finance, communications, fundraising, and project development.

#### 4.2 Board of Chris Roberts Forest Foundation in Uganda

The four-person board has been appointed for a period of 3 years. The board can be expanded up to a maximum of 5 people. Only the Board can appoint new Board members. Board members do not receive a remuneration for their activities. For further information on the Board of Chris Roberts Forest Foundation Uganda, we refer to the articles of association on our website.

Board

[Martijn Harlaar – Chair](#)

[Thijs Hommelink – Treasury](#)

Katherine Roberts – Secretary

[George Owoyesigire – Board member](#)

Each board member has work experience on the ground in Uganda and brings relevant expertise to the table: finance, communications, fundraising, project development and conservation.

#### 4.3 Local team in Uganda

The CRFF team in Uganda is led by [Rushongoka Wa-Mpiira](#) an expert agronomist. Rushongoka is based near Fort Portal, relatively close to the lodge and oversees the CRFF operations on the demo site. For maintenance work he is supported by a team of 2 agricultural support staff and 5 casual workers.